

# **Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice**

**Wednesday, October 25, 2006, 5:30 to 7:00 PM**

## **Grand Traverse Resort--Acme, MI**

### **Minutes**

Members Present: Sandra Amen-Bryan, Wayne Beerbower, Nancy Diehl, Sue Dobrich, Don Duquette, Gloria Gillespie, Linda Hallmark, Kathy Kovalchik-Lacko, Judy Labovitz, Sandy Lindsey, Christine McPherson, Ted Melinat, Eugene Moore, JoAnn Monaghan, Greg Pittman, Michael Reisch, Martha Tjhin, David Wolock, Tracey Yokich, DHS: Shannon Stotenbur-Wing, Colleen Duhm, Mary Mehren, Steve Yager

Members Absent: Jean Carl, Sydney Duncan, Shauna Dunnings, Elias Escobedo, John Gravier, Kathy Fehrman, Nancy Francis, Pamela Gilbert-O'Sullivan, Judy Hartsfield, Radwan Khoury, Bill Lansat, Mark Liss, Jolanda Murphy, Robert O'Brien, Sue Parrish, Lawrence Richardson, Pat Sorenson, Lisa Sullivan, Alice Thompson, Patricia Wagner, Justice Elizabeth Weaver.

#### **1. Welcome**

Nancy Diehl chaired the task force for Justice Weaver. Nancy welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for coming. A new member, Sandra Amen-Bryan, was present. All members present introduced themselves. Sandra introduced herself and gave a brief summary of her background.

#### **2. Minutes of April 28, 2006 Task Force meeting**

*Motion by Sandra Lindsey to approve minutes. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sue Dobrich. Full Task Force motion carried unanimously.*

#### **3. Executive Committee Report**

See sub-committee reports below.

#### **4. DHS Report-Mary Mehren**

Mary was not prepared to give a DHS report. Mary indicated that things are DHS are moving alone.

#### **5. Strategic Planning/Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be the evening of 1/11/07 (dinner provided) and approximately 8 to 3 on 1/12/07 at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing. The focus of the meeting will be to update the strategic plan done in 2004. A copy of 2004's strategic plan will be mailed out to all the members of the committee. Chuck Jones and Julie Horn Alexander of DHS will be facilitating the strategic plan. It was requested that an Executive Committee meeting be scheduled in December to prepare for the strategic planning.

##### **A. Contract Funding Guidelines**

Copies of DHS' contract funding guidelines were passed out to the task force.

Funding for contracts from \$10,000 to \$24,999 per year need to follow the expedited bid process and for contracts \$25,000 and above must follow the formal competitive bide process.

## **6. Committee Reports**

### **A. Video Recording Committee-Nancy Diehl**

The video recording committee met at the end of June. They will be requesting revisions to the two laws that discuss video recording: MCL 600.2163a and MCL 712A.17b. The committee met with representatives of Representative Sheen's office and the House policy office regarding making changes to the proposed bill on mandatory video recording (HB4038). The video recording committee supports mandatory video recording for children interviewed at accredited or accredited eligible CACs. As of mid-October no changes have been made.

### **B. Collaboration, Coordination, and Problem Solving- Sue Dobrich & Sandra Lindsey**

#### **a. John Ferry Proposal**

John Ferry presented his proposal to the Problem Solving Committee at the January GTF meeting. John was advised that he needs to add more specifics to his proposal and re-present it to the task force. The committee has not heard back from John Ferry.

#### **b. Doug VanEpps Proposal**

Meetings with Jim Hennessey and others at DHS were held since the last meeting. It was determined that Doug's proposal complements the Family to Family program. DHS is now looking at funding Doug's proposal with Title IVe Waiver funds. Doug has requested additional funding for different sites with GTF funds. The committee plans on meeting with Doug after the strategic plan is completed.

#### **c. Domestic Violence Training**

Funding to Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board (MDVPTB) for a mandatory DV training for CPS workers was approved at the last meeting. They are planning and developing the training sessions at this time. The initial plan was to roll-out the training after a new CPS computer program rolls out. The computer program roll-out has been delayed. MDVPTB plans on scheduling and beginning the training sessions early 2007.

#### **d. Yellowbook Update (Bill Newhouse)**

Bill Newhouse of Children's Charter is updating the Yellowbook. The initial research has been completed. Bill is waiting confirmation of an intern from MSU to assist with the final drafting, editing, and formatting of the research. Once that is complete, a quality assurance review will be done. When the book is complete, the material will go to print and distribution will resume. It is anticipated that this will be completed by January 2007.

#### **e. Request for Proposals**

The previous proposal from Todd Fenton at MSU to study head trauma on pig skulls was discussed. Sue proposed that the task force put out a request for proposals on "Research that will enhance the evidence based handling of child abuse and neglect cases that will address issues outlined by our mission set forth in 2004" for up to \$200,000.

*Motion by Sue Dobrich for the task force to support that a request for proposals in that area be done. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sue Dobrich. Full Task Force motion carried unanimously.*

**C. Training-Colleen Duhm for Bill Lansat**

**a. SCAO Contract**

A written update of SCAO's activities since the last meeting was passed out to all members. Sandy Lindsey wanted it noted for the record that SCAO received approval to apply for social work CEUs for their trainings during the next fiscal year.

SCAO's interagency agreement was renewed for FY 2007 for \$300,000. The training committee will be meeting with Carol in November to discuss the direction of the training sessions and projects for FY 2007.

The annual mental health conference will be held April 3 & 4, 2007 in East Lansing. The focus this year will be on substance abuse. Dave Wolock noted that this was the beginning of Passover. Sandra Lindsey indicated that the planning committee tried to be sensitive to the religious holidays during this time but these were the dates available at the conference site.

**b. Other**

Don Duquette reported that the ABA passed standards for attorneys to receive certification. Don would like the task force to review, endorse, and possibly fund training sessions for attorneys so they can become certified. Don passed out the results of the NACC Child Welfare Law Certification Pilot Phase for Michigan and two other states. Don's request was forwarded to the training committee for review.

**D. Citizens' Review Panel – Gloria Gillespie**

**a. Joint CPR Meeting**

The CRP Steering committee met. It was decided that the joint meeting of the three CRPs would be held every February. The next joint meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 7, 2007 from 10 to 3 at MPHI in Okemos.

**b. Update**

The committee will be looking at how to improve Michigan's compliance with the permanency rates for foster children as set up by the CFSR. The committee will be looking at other states that are doing well and reviewing an article written by Judge Tacoma on the problems with the Binsfield legislation, "making legal orphans." making recommendations to DHS.

**E. Legislative Committee-Colleen Duhm for Lisa Sullivan**

A draft of the by-laws was passed out to all members. Members need to review them for the next meeting. Approval of the by-laws will be voted on at the next meeting.

Senate Bills 1410, 1411, and 1412 were handed out to the task force members. Steve Yager gave a summary of what he knew of the bills.

**F. Summit-Colleen Duhm for Linda Hallmark**

The Summit is tomorrow and Friday.

**G. Web-Site Committee-Colleen Duhm**

An interagency agreement was signed with DIT for the development of a GTF web-site. The web-site committee will be meeting on 10/30/06 to discuss the content of the web-site. If anyone has suggestions for content, please email Colleen.

**7. Financial Report – Colleen Duhm**

The application for the CJA grant for FY 2006 has been submitted and we were awarded \$587,794 that must be spent by 9/30/08. We have approximately \$240,000 of unencumbered funds from previous fiscal years that needs to be spent by 9/30/07.

**8. Old Business**

None

**9. New Business**

**A. Parking Meters on Payment Voucher & Payment Vouchers General-Colleen Duhm**

The maximum you can claim on your voucher for parking at parking meters (no receipt) is \$5.00. Please submit your vouchers timely.

**B. State Police Training for CPS Workers-Colleen Duhm**

DHS and MSP are working together to develop training for CPS workers on investigative skills such as interviewing alleged perpetrators and crime scene investigation.

**C. Dinner-Trillium Restaurant**

The meal will be put on the master bill. No alcoholic drinks can be paid for by task force funds. You can pay separately if you want drinks but please remember to tip the wait staff for your drinks.

**D. Other**

Dave Wolock indicated that Kathryn O'Grady has left SCAO. He suggested that the task force send a letter to her a thank you

**10. Announcements**

Shannon Stotenbur-Wing will be leaving state employment and has accepted a job at MPHI. Shannon's last day with DHS will be 12/2/06. At MPHI, Shannon will be working on the protocol contract. Once at MPHI, Shannon will be requesting to be appointed as an ad hoc member of the task force.

Don Duquette passed out announcements for the U of M Law School Child Advocacy Law Clinic 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary symposium on 3/29/07 to 4/1/07.

**11. Public Comment**

None

**12. Future Meetings Dates**

Wednesday, October 25, 26, 27, 2006 Summit, Traverse City MI  
Friday, January 12, 2007 in Lansing

**13. Adjourn**

Wayne Beerbower made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nancy Diehl adjourned.

Minutes completed by  
Colleen Duhm  
11/1/06